

STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Consideration

TOPIC: Professional Development: Long Range Plan

ITEM NO: 10B

MEETING: January 24, 2006

PREPARED BY:

ACTION DATE: N/A

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ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT:

That the Stafford County School Board receive information regarding the Long Range Plan for Professional Development.

KEY POINTS:

Over the past 10 years, tremendous changes have occurred to warrant a review of the Professional Development model. These changes include: 1) The VA Standards of Learning dictate a common baseline curriculum to be taught in all grades and classrooms; 2) NCLB focuses on the learning progress of five subpopulations (ESL, Students with Disabilities, Economically Disadvantaged, African-American, and Hispanic) as well as specific teacher qualifications; and 3) Research in teaching and learning theory has increased our ability to apply research-based practices in the classroom to ensure the success of all learners.

In addition, mounting research in the field of Professional Development and Organizational Change indicates that for new learning to become part of an organization's culture, the organization needs to change along with individuals. Thus, the structures and processes for delivering, practicing, monitoring, and evaluating professional development need to be addressed as much as the content of what teachers need to know and be able to do to increase the learning of all students.

In January, 2005, a Professional Development Steering Committee met to review current research and to develop recommendations for further action. Attached is a copy of the Professional Development Conceptual Model developed by the committee. This model articulates the mission, beliefs and vision for Professional Development in SCPS. From this document, the committee will address the following future goals:

- Developing a framework for division-wide Professional Development;
- Developing a framework for site-based Professional Development; and,
- Formulating guidelines and procedures for the alignment of division, site-based, and individual professional development goals.

SCHOOL BOARD GOAL:

Goal 1: Provide educational excellence through instruction that establishes high expectations for all students yet recognizes the unique needs of each learner.

FUNDING SOURCE: Operational budget

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: NCLB; Virginia Guidelines for High Quality Professional Development; National Staff Development Council; Virginia Staff Development Council